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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MONICA BRANCH-NOTO, individually and on behalf)
of JOHN DOE MINOR *NO. 1*, as guardian of said minor,)
TIFFANY PAULSON, individually and on behalf of)
JOHN DOE MINOR *NO. 2* and JANE DOE MINOR)
NO. 1, as guardian of said minors,)
Plaintiffs,)

vs.

STEPHEN F. SISOLAK, in his official capacity as)
Governor of the State of Nevada, AARON DARNELL)
FORD, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of)
the State of Nevada, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL)
DISTRICT, a public entity, DOES 1 through 100.)
Defendants)

**Case No. 2:21-cv-01507 JAD-
DJA**

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE
TO DEFENDANTS
SISOLAK ET AL'S
MOTION TO
CONSOLIDATE AND
JOINDERS**

1 **PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' SISOLAK ET AL AND CLARK**
2 **COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MOTIONS TO CONSOLIDATE AND**
3 **JOINDERS THERETO**

4 COMES NOW, Plaintiff MONICA BRANCH-NOTO ET AL, by and through the
5 undersigned attorneys of record, SIGAL CHATTAH, ESQ., of CHATTAH LAW
6 GROUP, who hereby submit the following RESPONSE TO ALL DEFENDANTS'
7 MOTIONS TO CONSOLIDATE AND JOINDERS THERETO.

8 **INTRODUCTION**

9 The litigation *sub judice*, involves Plaintiffs who are parents of minors attending Clark
10 County School District, requiring a mask mandate pursuant to Nevada's Governor's Executive
11 Order 0048, in violation of Plaintiffs' procedural and substantive due process rights and various
12 other claims for relief under State law. Defendants seek consolidation of two cases, one based on
13 the Nevada Constitution and Plaintiffs' State Claims for Relief, and the other *sub judice*.¹

14 To the extent that the *Burns* matter, includes additional Defendants that are not included
15 in the matter *sub judice* and Ruiz, should be an indication that, common set of facts, do not
16 include common parties or common questions of law.

17 It is significant to note that there is currently, a Motion to Remand in
18 2:21-cv-02036-GMN-BNW, which is fully briefed and is awaiting decision by Hon. Judge
19 Navarro.

20 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

21 Plaintiffs' Complaint sub judice filed under 42 U.S.C § 1983 alleges the following claims
22 for relief:

- 23 1. Violation of Ninth Amendment

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¹ Plaintiffs do not have any position on the Burns matter or consolidation, and will defer to the Burns Plaintiffs on same.

2. Violation of the Privileges and Immunities Clause on the Fourteenth Amendment
3. Violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
4. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
5. Violation of the Equal Protection Clause of Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments
6. Negligence

This action challenges the constitutionality of Defendants' Orders and Emergency Directives to curb Plaintiffs' civil rights and liberties by ordering draconian measures and engaging in the intentional infliction of emotional distress of school children and their parents, by mandating students of all Clark County School District, fully masked while attending school.

Plaintiffs' Complaint in the State Court Action entitled *Jason Ruiz Et Al v Stephen Sisolak Et Al*, 2:21-cv-02036-GMN-BNW alleges the following claims for relief:

1. Violation of Nevada Constitution Article I § 1.
2. Violation of Nevada Constitution Article I § 8.
3. Violation of Nevada Constitution Article I § 20.
4. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress.
5. Violation of Nevada Constitution Article I § 24.
6. Negligence.

Plaintiffs' *Ruiz* Complaint and the causes of action therein, are wholly based on Nevada State Constitutional claims and other State claims for relief. Jurisdiction is proper in the Eighth Judicial District Court and this Court should not exercise supplemental jurisdiction on of these claims.

Furthermore, Defendants herein have already in previous pleadings asserted that Plaintiffs' State Law Claims *sub judice*, should be dismissed and they have not waived immunity of same.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

Rule 42 (a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that:

When actions involving a common question of law or fact are pending before the court, it may order a joint hearing or trial of any or all the matters in issue in the actions; it may make such orders concerning proceedings therein as may tend to avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a). The purpose of Rule 42(a) "is to give the court broad discretion to decide how cases on its docket are to be tried so that the business of the court may be dispatched with expedition and economy while providing justice to the parties." *Wright & A. Miller, Federal Practice and Procedure*, § 2381 (1971).

Rule 42(a) permits a district court to consolidate separate actions when they involve "a common question of law or fact." Fed.R.Civ.P. 42(a). Even if there are some questions that are not common, consolidation is not precluded. *Batazzi v. Petroleum Helicopters, Inc.*, 664 F.2d 49, 50 (5th Cir. 1981); *See Central Motor Co. v. United States*, 583 F.2d 470 (10th Cir. 1978).

Here, Defendants seek to consolidate two cases, each based on different laws, one federal and the second State laws, as a way to allow adjudication of what ultimately are matters to be dispensed by the correct separate jurisdictions. Defendants fail to provide this Court justification as to why the State Court on a pending Motion to Remand is not the proper jurisdiction for State Court Claims.

A. DEFENDANTS' CONTRADICTORY POSITIONS ON STATE CLAIMS IN *RUIZ* AND HERE PRECLUDES THEM FROM CONSOLIDATING THE MATTERS

At the outset, Defendants' request to removal of the *Ruiz* case, is pending a Motion to Remand in 2:21-cv-02036-GMN-BNW. This Court should allow a decision on the Motion to Remand to State Court be made prior to any consolidation of this matter.

1 Second, Defendants have requested this Court dismiss the State Claims in the matter *sub*
 2 *judice*, and assured this Court that they have not waived immunity herein as to State Court
 3 claims.

4 However, removal of *Ruiz* from State Court to this Court precludes them from asserting
 5 immunity from suit on all federal-law claims in the case, *Walden V. State of Nevada*; 18-15691
 6 (9th Cir. 2019), *Embury v. King*, 361 F.3d 562 (9th Cir. 2004).

7 Furthermore, “voluntary removal results in the state waiving immunity from suit [in
 8 federal court] for state claims if the state has already waived immunity from such claims in its
 9 own courts.” *Lapides v. Board of Regents*, 535 U.S. 613 (2002).

10 Most significant though, is that Defendants rest their whole Motion on the fact that the
 11 claims in *Ruiz*, mirror the claims here with the exception that *Ruiz* is based on Nevada’s
 12 constitutional claims and state claims for relief, yet have requested this Court to dismiss such
 13 State Claims.
 14

15 Ironically though, is the argument that Defendants’ make in their Motion to Dismiss the
 16 State claims in the *Noto* action which includes the following:

17 “The Eleventh Amendment prohibits federal courts from hearing suits brought
 18 against an un-consenting state” and it generally “bars suits [that] seek either
 19 damages or injunctive relief against a state, an ‘arm of the state,’ its
 20 instrumentalities, or its agencies.” Suits “against state officials that seek[]
 21 retroactive money damages, to be paid from the state treasury, [are] barred by the
 22 [E]leventh [A]mendment as a suit against the state.” Here, Nevada has
 23 specifically not waived its Eleventh Amendment immunity. Accordingly, these
 24 state tort claims must be dismissed with prejudice. Citing to *Franceschi v.*
 25 *Schwartz*, 57 F.3d 828, 831 (9th Cir. 1995); *Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v.*
Halderman, 465 U.S. 89, 100 (1984). *Blaylock v. Schwinden*, 862 F.2d 1352,
 1353 (9th Cir. 1988). NRS 41.031(3) (“The State of Nevada does not waive its
 immunity from suit conferred by Amendment XI of the Constitution of the United
 States”).

See Case 2:21-cv-01507-JAD-DJA [ECF 17] Filed 10/12/21

1 In Defendants' Motions to Dismiss currently pending herein, they allege immunity and
2 therefore request dismissal of State Actions, and yet, they seek to consolidate the matter with a
3 case with only State claims regardless of a waiver of immunity or the State claims asserted
4 therein.

5 Additionally, Defendants seek to consolidate the two actions despite the fact that removal
6 of one case to Federal Court will bar the immunity defenses asserted *in the matter sub judice*.
7 Furthermore, a request to divest *this* Court of supplemental jurisdiction over State Claims, and
8 then to request this Court exercise jurisdiction over an action based on State Claims are
9 completely contradictory legal positions that cannot co-exist in a consolidated case or even one
10 that a remand has yet to be determined.

12 CONCLUSION

13 Defendants' Motions are premature at the outset, as the *Ruiz* matter is pending a Motion
14 to Remand, which this Court should await decision thereon before consolidation herein should be
15 entertained.

16 Secondly, Defendants' contradictory positions on State law claims and immunity
17 should preclude consolidation of this matter at this juncture.

18 Finally, Defendants fail to provide this Court with adequate substantiation why the State
19 jurisdiction over State claims is the improper jurisdiction for adjudication of said State claims.

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1 Accordingly, Plaintiffs request that these Motions to Consolidate and Joinders thereto be
2 denied.

3 DATED this 3rd day of December, 2021.

4 **CHATTAH LAW GROUP**

5 /s/ Sigal Chattah

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11 *Attorney for Plaintiffs*

12 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

13 I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of December, 2021, I personally served a true copy of
14 the foregoing Plaintiffs' RESPONSE TO ALL DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE
15 AND JOINDERS by the Courts electronic service system to all registered parties:

16 /s/ Sigal Chattah

17 An Agent of Chattah Law Group
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